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Teaching Humanitarian Impacts of Nuclear Weapons as Part of CTBT Education: Case of Kazakhstan

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There is a growing understanding in the international community of the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of the use of nuclear weapons on individuals, society, the economy and the environment. However, recent efforts by non-nuclear weapons states and civil society to encourage nuclear powers to prioritize nuclear disarmament that culminated in the adoption of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons have not been successful. There is a clear need to revitalize the humanitarian impacts agenda, which will also help promote the CTBT's entry into force. One of the ways is to educate the young generation by incorporating humanitarian aspects of nuclear weapon detonations in academic curricula of relevant higher education institutions. In Kazakhstan, a country that housed a major nuclear test site and is now home to five International Monitoring System stations, a number of universities offer non-proliferation and disarmament courses that comprehensively cover, among other topics, nuclear test-ban issues, including CTBT's political and legal aspects, as well as health and environmental consequences of nuclear testing. This experience demonstrates that educated youth equipped with necessary knowledge can be instrumental in achieving progress towards a world free from nuclear weapons.

Promotional text

Promoting CTBT Goals through Youth Education

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